

## A Meeting of the Minds

Mr. Jenkins

“Exploring Theories of Government”

History 9

Objectives:

- Identify philosophers upon which framers of the Constitution drew.
- Summarize key elements of the philosophies of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau.
- Apply political theories in considering a structure for a new form of government.

Two Fundamental Questions:

- “who should rule?”
- “why should others follow?”

Related Questions:

- “what is human nature?”
- “what is the most effective form of government?”

Activity:

Each of you will become experts on political philosophy. By discussing various philosophers, recommendations about the best form of government for the United States will be made.

Each of you will read and discuss one reading. Upon completion of the reading and answering of the following questions, one individual representing each philosopher will have the responsibility of discussing and explaining their “ideas” with other philosophers in order to make recommendations.

- ✓ Why is government necessary?
- ✓ What form of government is best? Why?

In your new groups, develop a rationale for government and make recommendations about the form of government we should develop. A recorder should make a copy of the discussions.

A spokesperson will provide a presentation of the group’s main ideas.

In Conclusion:

- ✓ Without government, do you think human beings would live in a “state of nature?”
- ✓ In what ways did the philosophies of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau influence American government?

Evaluation:

- ✓ Small Group: cooperation, expression of ideas, and attention to task